

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00248 111236Z

73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /086 W

----- 088852

R 111050Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5006

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0248

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS/ RH, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: SMITH DENIES HE MADE NEW PROPOSALS

1. IN SALISBURY INTERVIEW MARCH 9 IAN SMITH EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT HE HAD MADE ANY NEW BASIC PROPOSALS TO JOSHUA NKOMO. REPORTERS QUESTIONS WERE STIMULATED BY STATEMENTS MADE AFTER LAST ROUND OF TALKS BY NKOMO AND JOSIAH CHINAMANO WHICH INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF NARROWING OF NKOMO-SMITH DIFFERENCE. THIS IMPRESSION ALSO REPORTEDLY CONVEYED IN MOST RECENT ISSUE OF NKOMO FACTIONS NEWSPAPER ZIMBABWE STAR, EDITED BY WILLIE MASURURWA WHO IS ALSO MEMBER OF NATIONALIST NEGOTIATING TEAM. SMITH SAID THAT HE HAD MADE NO NEW PROPOSALS AT LAST MEETING, THOUGH 'IT WOULD BE LOGICAL FOR ME TO SAY THAT ON EVERY

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00248 111236Z

OCCASION NEW THOUGHTS ARE PROPOUNDED'. IN RESPONSE

TO QUERY ABOUT SPECULATION THAT HE HAD OFFERED NKOMO IMMEDIATE BLACK-WHITE PARITY IN PARLIAMENT FOLLOWED BY TWO-YEAR TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, SMITH RESPONDED THAT 'THE ANSWER IS EASY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HEARD THIS SUGGESTION. I CAN TELL YOU THAT WITH COMPLETE SINCERITY.' HE ALSO SAID THAT RHODESIANS SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE TALKS (WITH NKOMO) WERE DESTINED TO BREAKDOWN.'I THINK THAT WE MUST GO INTO THESE TALKS CONTRUCTIVELY WITH THE HOPE THAT WE ARE GOING TO SUCCEED'. HE SAID.

2. COMMENT: NEITHER SMITH NOR NKOMO, FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, WANT TO SEE THEIR TALKS FALL APART AT THIS STAGE. THE VERBAL GAMES THAT THEY PLAY TO OUTFOX EACH OTHER AND, AT THE SAME TIME TO COVER THEIR POLITICAL FLANKS, MAKE ANALYSIS DIFFICULT. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO DATE, HOWEVER, TO CAUSE US TO DOUBT SMITH'S OWN DENIALS ABOUT ALLEGED NEW PROPOSALS ON HIS PART.

BOWDLER

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